

need for prayer. That is why I decided to introduce this resolution for a national day of prayer and remembrance.

Many in our Nation believe, as do I, that prayer changes things and that it represents the highest level of human communication. As many of us now know, this Friday, September 16, has been designated as a day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina; and my resolution, the resolution we are currently considering, expresses the support of Congress for such a day and urges all Americans to join together this Friday to remember those that have lost their lives and to ask for strength and determination for those that are trying to rebuild their lives and their city.

In the wake of tragedy, the American people have always stepped up to support their fellow man and woman, and Hurricane Katrina is no different. The American people have opened their hearts, their checkbooks and even their homes in sheltering the storm's victims, providing food and medical assistance, and donating hundreds of millions of dollars to the relief effort.

In my home State of Missouri, for example, Children's Mercy Hospital of Kansas City, Missouri, has opened their doors to a number of young patients and families flown in from New Orleans by the Missouri Air National Guard, and the Red Cross has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in Kansas City.

The compassion and generosity of the American people is unparalleled; but as the devastation and full impact of Hurricane Katrina is further understood, its victims and their families will more than ever need us all to keep them in our thoughts and prayers as well.

As senior pastor of the St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas City, I have called on my congregation to support the evacuees with their time, talent, treasure and prayer. I have asked them to pray for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, their families and all those who are aiding in the recovery and relief effort.

I hope my colleagues will all join me in the support of this resolution and will join me in prayer, along with the President, at the National Cathedral this Friday and join the American people to remember all those affected by the devastating events of the past 2 weeks.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just state that I agree wholeheartedly with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) that prayer is the highest form of human communication; that it has a way of making things different. So I would simply urge passage of this resolution and thank him for its introduction.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of what denomination one belongs to, we all

know the power of prayer; and that is one reason why I am sure that my colleagues will join me in supporting the National Day of Prayer for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 240.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3132, CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 436 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 436

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3132) to make improvements to the national sex offender registration program, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by title rather than by section. Each title shall be considered as read. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so printed may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 436 is a modified open rule that provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. This rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. It provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and that it shall be read by title.

It makes in order only those amendments to the bill that are preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD or are pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate, provides that each amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee, and that each amendment shall be considered as read. It provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of House Resolution 436 and the underlying bill, H.R. 3132, the Children's Safety Act of 2005.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Chairman SENSENBRENNER for this comprehensive bill addressing the unconscionable atrocities perpetrated against our children by sexual predators and for his committee's thorough work and committed devotion to seeing this bill realized.

Mr. Speaker, this fight is not a new one. The sexual and physical abuse of our most fragile and defenseless citizens, our children, is perhaps the most offensive and utterly unconscionable act that can be committed.

□ 1100

Members on both sides of the aisle recognize the need to continually find new ways to prevent sexual abuse and to thoroughly and justly punish those who commit these heinous acts.

The Children's Safety Act of 2005 would combat the sexual exploitation and abuse of our children through mounting an offensive on numerous fronts and through combining various pieces of good, solid legislation into this one comprehensive bill. The final product compiles the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, the DNA Fingerprinting Act of 2005, the Prevention and Deterrence of Crimes Against Children Act of 2005, the Protection Against Sexual Exploitation of Children Act of 2005, and the Foster Child Protection Act of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3132 is a commonsense bill. For too long the laws have

not fully reflected or reacted to the changing environment in which our children are vulnerable. While the Constitution always protects the accused and harmed alike, we should not allow the law to be procedurally twisted by child abusers to keep them on the streets to harm another child because of a technicality or because of insufficient support for our law enforcement and communities.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3132 would require that the definition of sex offender be expanded to include both felony sex offenses and misdemeanor sex offenses. Additionally, this bill would make the possession of child pornography a triggering offense for registration and notification requirements.

Another important provision of this bill would require a State to maintain a statewide Internet site to provide thorough and current information about sex offenders. This information would include the current location of the sex offender, the facts underlying the offender's conviction, any vehicles owned or used by the offender, a picture and other up-to-date information to keep communities informed and give them every possible piece of information available to assess the potential threats of these individuals.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this bill makes full use of new and innovative technologies available to law enforcement. Specifically, DNA technology. It has grown by leaps and bounds, and today this technology gives law enforcement new and more precise tools to keep innocent people free and keep criminals behind bars, where they belong. This bill would also require the Attorney General to create a prioritized DNA database focused specifically on those violent predators who would prey on our children.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot emphasize enough that our primary goal must be to prevent child abuse and stop these deviants before they get their hands on a child and before they destroy a child's fragile life. However, when one of these deviants does harm a child, then the full weight of the law should be upon them.

This bill would impose new mandatory minimum penalties for violent crimes committed against children. These mandatory minimums include the death penalty or life imprisonment when a child is murdered. It imposes a 30-years-to-life imprisonment when the offender kidnaps, maims, commits aggravated sexual abuse, or causes serious bodily harm to a child. Additionally, the bill requires a 20-year minimum sentence when the crime of violence results in a nonserious bodily injury to a child. Fifteen-years-to-life imprisonment is required when the defendant uses a dangerous weapon, and in any other case the minimum penalty ranges from a mandatory 10 years to life imprisonment.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this bill would increase the existing mandatory penalties for several existing sexual of-

fenses, including engaging in a sexual act with a child, committing abusive sexual contact and sexual exploitation of a child, trafficking child pornography, and the use of the Internet to prey on children.

I would also like to add that this bill places new requirements on our States to ensure that they perform complete background checks on potential foster and adoptive parents, and grants relevant State agencies access to national criminal history databases. Our State and local governments should never, let me repeat, never deliver a child into the hands of a sexual predator.

The Children's Safety Act also addresses the growing problem of kidnapping and sex trafficking. The trafficking of children is a problem not just here in the United States but globally, and this bill will increase the penalties for sex trafficking of children. We have to root these thugs out and shut down their operations. Sexual abuse of children must be stopped at all levels and in all degrees. From the lone abuses to a network of criminals peddling children for the pleasure of perverts, this must be stopped, and this bill goes a long way to strengthen law enforcement capabilities and making sure the punishment justly fits the crime.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to unite behind this commonsense legislation. Let us keep sexual predators away from our children, off the streets, and serving their time.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me this time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to consider the rule for H.R. 3132, the Children's Safety Act of 2005. This rule has a requirement that all amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be in order for today's floor debate. While this rule is less restrictive than most rules we report out of the Committee on Rules, I must point out that it is not an open rule. It restricts the debate we will be able to have today on this bill by preventing Members from offering any new amendments.

For example, if a Member came up with a good idea for an amendment today based upon the discussion, he or she would not be able to offer it. That is unfortunate, because the Children's Safety Act is important legislation that aims to protect our children and allow them to grow up unharmed and free from abuse, but it is not perfect.

This legislation ties the hands of the judiciary. We must allow those most competent, the judge who has presided over the case, who has seen and heard from the victim, to determine the appropriate punishment. Our judges are best positioned to hand down sentences that correspond with the crime committed.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to create laws that protect our children from harm.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE), who has been extremely active in the crafting of this legislation. Her bill, which she will talk about, is actually included in this overall comprehensive bill. And she knows well, if not better than all of us, about these matters because some of these heinous acts occurred within the last year in her great State of Florida.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me this time.

As the person who represents the area that Jessica Lunsford grew up in and knowing her family very, very well, all of America was focused on Jessica when she turned up missing. Then we found out that she was the victim of a predator, a very, very sick, depraved man. Jessica is no longer with us; and I commend the Members of Congress, including yourself, Mr. Speaker, with whom I have worked very closely, and certainly the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, in putting together the Children's Safety Act.

No parent should worry when their child is at a playground whether or not a sexual predator is nearby. There were many loopholes in the various State laws in Jessica's case. The perpetrator came into Florida from Georgia. He registered at one point but then transferred his address. The probation officer never knew that he had a prior offense of violating children. Had that probation officer known that, he never would have allowed the offender anywhere near a school.

That is but one of the very excellent facets of this bill in addition to having the nationwide registration and availability on line so that parents, so that grandparents, so that anyone can go and find out who the offenders are in their neighborhood so that every family member can have a modicum of safety in knowing who is nearby.

It also, as I mentioned, does allow for probation officers to know about a prior offense. Now, why is that important? I firmly believe, Mr. Speaker, that Jessica Lunsford would be here today had the probation officer known that.

Additionally, the bill also picks up on some language that I had in the Jessica Lunsford Act, and part of this bill is named after her, that provides for more frequent contacts, a mailing or random mailings to the sexual offenders so that they have to report. If the mailer is not returned, if they do not fill out the form and send it back, at that point police will be alerted to be on the lookout for them because they are not at their last known address.

With all of the various facets of the bill, many Members who are concerned, who have lost children to these offenders, to these violators of our most innocent children, every single Member who put a bill in and those who signed on as cosponsors realize the importance of protecting our streets, of protecting our families, of protecting our children from these lowlifes who prey on our most innocent young children.

I certainly support the bill. I want to make sure that the rule is adopted so we can go on, pass this bill, send it over to the Senate; and, hopefully, they, too, will see the need, the absolute imperative need that America has in demanding that this bill pass so that our children will be protected.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and, in closing, I would like to begin by saying that there are very few matters in our society that are as clear-cut as this one. Child abduction and abuse is not a new problem. It did not begin yesterday, and it will not end tomorrow. This is a continuing struggle to protect our children; and I truly believe that it will help protect my grandchildren, 7-year-old twins Ali and Hannah Manning, 5-year-old Hank Manning, IV, and 10-month-old Grey Collins.

The recent tragedies that have grabbed the attention and sympathy of the Nation only serve as a grim and poignant reminder that our work is not done and we must continue to do everything that we can to stop the abuse and exploitation of our children.

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As I noted in my opening statement, this is commonsense, comprehensive legislation that attacks the problem in many different ways, from expanding the definition of sex offenders, to strengthening law enforcement's tools, to increasing mandatory minimums for child abusers and kidnappers.

Additionally, I believe this legislation protects the constitutional rights of the accused while ensuring that the guilty see justice and the victims are protected.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the Committee on the Judiciary for putting this bill together. H.R. 3132 is sound, well-crafted legislation. I am confident that this legislation will empower the innocent over the guilty, victims over the predators. With its passage, our country, our children and our grandchildren, will be the winners. For that reason I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA LOUISE PARKS' REFUSAL TO GIVE UP HER SEAT ON THE BUS AND THE SUBSEQUENT DESEGREGATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 208) recognizing the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 208

Whereas most historians date the beginning of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement in the United States to December 1, 1955;

Whereas December 1, 1955, is the date of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man and her subsequent arrest;

Whereas Rosa Louise Parks was born on February 4, 1913, as Rosa Louise McCauley to James and Leona McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama;

Whereas Rosa Louise Parks was educated in Pine Level, Alabama, until the age of 11, when she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls and then went on to attend the Alabama State Teachers College's High School;

Whereas on December 18, 1932, Rosa Louise McCauley married Raymond Parks and the two settled in Montgomery, Alabama;

Whereas, together, Raymond and Rosa Parks worked in the Montgomery, Alabama, branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where Raymond served as an active member and Rosa served as a secretary and youth leader;

Whereas on December 1, 1955, Rosa Louise Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the "colored" section of the bus to a white man on the orders of the bus driver because the "white" section was full;

Whereas the arrest of Rosa Louise Parks led African Americans and others to boycott the Montgomery city bus line until the buses in Montgomery were desegregated;

Whereas the 381-day Montgomery bus boycott encouraged other courageous people across the United States to organize in protest and demand equal rights for all;

Whereas the fearless acts of civil disobedience displayed by Rosa Louise Parks and others resulted in a legal action challenging Montgomery's segregated public transportation system which subsequently led to the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, affirming a district court decision that held that Montgomery segregation codes deny and deprive African Americans of the equal protection of the laws (352 U.S. 903);

Whereas, in the years following the Montgomery bus boycott, Rosa Louise Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan, in 1957, and continued her civil rights work through efforts that included working in the office of Congressman John Conyers, Jr., from 1965 until 1988, and starting the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that motivates youth to reach their highest potential, in 1987;

Whereas Rosa Louise Parks has been commended for her work in the realm of civil rights with such recognitions as the NAACP's Springarn Medal in 1979, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Nonviolent Peace Prize in 1980, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in

1996, and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999; and

Whereas in 2005, the year marking the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus, we recognize the courage, dignity, and determination displayed by Rosa Louise Parks as she confronted injustice and inequality: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to recognize and celebrate this anniversary and the subsequent legal victories that sought to eradicate segregation in all of American society; and

(3) endeavors to work with the same courage, dignity, and determination exemplified by civil rights pioneer, Rosa Louise Parks, to address modern-day inequalities and injustice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 208 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 208, recognizing the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society.

Fifty years ago, one individual, through one courageous act, gave strength to the citizens of Montgomery, Alabama, to stand up to the injustice and indignity that had become commonplace among its citizens. Rosa Parks accomplished this heroic feat through the single act of refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white man. Her single act of defiance and refusal to accept the status quo led to the 381-day Montgomery bus boycott and eventually to the desegregation of Montgomery, Alabama.

However, Rosa Parks' courageous act meant much more. It inspired a broader movement that struggled and pushed back against a Nation that had failed to keep its promise to all its citizens to promote equality, justice, and fairness under the laws. It paved the way for this Nation to hold unacceptable the injustices and disparate treatment experienced by many of its citizens. Rosa Parks' courage helped restore to all citizens the dignity and respect that every person deserves. Her